

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
ExxonMobil - Baytown Olefins Plant (073119) - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial Polrep  
ExxonMobil - Baytown Olefins Plant (073119)  
  
Baytown, TX  
Latitude: 29.7569734 Longitude: -95.0106895

**To:**  
**From:** Gary Moore, FOSC  
**Date:** 7/31/2019  
**Reporting Period:** 07/31/2019

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b> CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b> PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b> Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b> 7/31/2019	<b>Start Date:</b>	7/31/2019
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>	07/31/2019
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The facility is an Olefins Plant owned by ExxonMobil.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

3625 Decker Drive  
Baytown, Harris County, TX 77520

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The threat is the potential exposure to the community surrounding the facility.

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The ExxonMobil - Baytown Olefins Plant experienced a fire/explosion that impacted the depropanizer unit. The fire continued until 2200 hrs. Air monitoring conducted by ExxonMobil, TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control, and EPA have revealed no detections. Due to the volume of firewater, it was necessary for ExxonMobil to discharge water through outfall 002 as they could not keep up with pumping the water to the Refinery WWTP. TCEQ handled the coordination with the facility on the additional sampling requirements necessary.

Exxon indicated that 68 personnel were sent to off-site medical (38 first aid and 28 exams, 2 additional were recently sent for evaluation). 66 of the 68 have been released.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On 7/31/2019, at approximately at 10:45 hrs a fire started in one of the depropanizer units, at the ExxonMobil - Baytown Olefins Plant located in Baytown, Harris County, TX. At approximately 1126 hrs, the EPA received an NRC Report (1253761) from a private citizen concerning the incident. At approximately 1147 hrs, the City of Baytown issued a shelter-in-place for the surrounding community. News reports indicated that the material burning was propylene and that ExxonMobil personnel had isolated the unit and were allowing the residual materials to burn off. The EPA Phone Duty Officer coordinated with TCEQ-Houston, which had responded to the scene. EPA activated its START contractors from the Houston Office to assist in the assessment of the incident and conduct air monitoring. The EPA Response Duty Officer from Dallas was deployed, and EPA's ASPECT aircraft was activated.

The EPA joined efforts with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Harris County

Pollution Control and ExxonMobil to conduct perimeter and community air monitoring for Total VOCs, LEL, H2S & CO. As of 1500 hours, no detections had been observed. At approximately 1507 hours, the City of Baytown lifted the shelter-in place. At 1600 hours ExxonMobil notified the NRC Report (1253799) and indicated a release of Butadiene, Benzene, and Nitrogen Oxide associated with flaring activities associated with the impacts of the fire. EPA ASPECT Aircraft flew over the incident location at approximately 1625 hours and initial reports indicate no detections.

OSC Moore arrived on-site at approximately 1815 hours to begin coordination with facility personnel as well as TCEQ and Harris County Pollution Control. At that time, the fire was still ongoing, but was isolated and appeared contained with fire fighting activities ongoing, ExxonMobil anticipates the fire will continue for up to 12 hours depending upon their ability to effectively isolate the necessary valves. Limited visual emission were noticeable at 1815 hours. The material reported to be involved include propylene, ethylene, and C4 + compounds. At 2200 hrs, the facility reported that the fire was out but there was a chance of re-ignition so they have not called the all clear. As of 2400 hrs, no reports of detections around the perimeter of the site or in the community have been reported. ExxonMobil personnel will continue air monitoring throughout the night and will inform the Agencies if conditions change.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The PRP is:  
Exxon Mobil - Baytown Olefins Plant  
3625 Decker Drive  
Baytown, Harris County, TX 77520

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

- ExxonMobil will:
- Continue applying water spray as needed to suppress vapors to prevent the remaining hydrocarbons from re-igniting;
  - Continue the process of de-inventorying the tower to remove the remaining materials;
  - Continue pumping water from the Outfall 002 ditch to the refinery waste water treatment plant as well as continue sampling outfall 002 should water continue to be discharged - TCEQ coordinating this activity under their TPDES requirements.
  - Continue to air monitor until the potential threat of fire and continued release subsides.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

The EPA and TCEQ team plan to demobilize at 0230 hrs and will return at 0630 for meeting update and determination of further activities.

### 2.2.2 Issues

## 2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

## 3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

## 4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

## 5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

## 6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

## 7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.